



Sitting in a Coffeeshop



thriller

mystery

horror

284 33 20

Chapter 1 by intellikat

She tapped. She tapped away at the keyboard. Each keystroke in succession-- regulated, meditated. Loud in the otherwise silent coffeeshop.

The other patrons looked up from their mugs at her, sitting there in tattered coat and dripping hair. The girls over the bar were whispering to one another.

And then...

And then...

She tapped a series of keystrokes and simply vanished before their eyes. When the old detective arrived at the scene, they still held their cups in shock-- huddled together, whispering-- having witnessed the first time traveller in recorded history.

Chapter 2 by Eloise



A particularly blonde girl around twenty-three pointed a shaking finger towards the abandoned

computer that the woman had been typing at. The detective shuffled towards it and peered

through his thick eyeglasses. He gasped and fell back in his chair when he turned the

computer around for them to see. For certain keys on the keyboard were glowing in a way that had never been programmed.

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The glowing keys formed a visible pattern on the keyboard, and you'll notice it if you look at yours too - an arching sequence that spread across the keys - Q, S, X, D, R, G, B, H, U, K. The glowing increased. The detective, unable to bear the suspense anymore, quickly ran a finger over the keys, starting from Q and ending at K, and felt a peculiar watery sensation around him as the mysterious computer, the girls at the bar and the coffee shop slowly faded from sight...

Chapter 3 by Cat4055



He opened his eyes and a swarm of zeros and ones attacked him.

"Down boys." said a voice. A woman, around mid-twenties, stepped into his line of sight. The ones and zeros went back to her side but still growled menacingly.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I'm, The Computer."

Chapter 4 by Alicia Chen



"How do I get out of here?" the detective asked.

"You don't, unless, of course, you find a bug."

"What type of bugs, the electronic ones or the living ones?"

"It doesn't matter. If you find a bug, you're out. But, it's harder than it seems." The Computer said, smirking.

"Cool, but how did I get in?"

"That, I cannot tell you."

"Why not?" The detective whined.

"Because I don't know and it's confidential."

"Oh. Well at least tell me where I can find a bug."

"I cannot tell you that as well."

"Why, because you don't know?"

"No, actually, I know where it is. But, the virus told me not to tell anyone."

"Then how did the woman before me escape?" The detective asked, getting even more curious every second.

"Oh, her? She didn't escape, yet. She went on a mission."

"A mission? To do what?"

"To get out of here."

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Chapter 5 by Flois



"Then where is she?"

"Oh, somewhere, I guess."

"Seriously? The girls at Starbucks said something about traveling in time."

"Well then, they're not wrong. They just got some of their facts wrong. You see..."

Chapter 6 by LethalPianist



"This is the future."

"What? You JUST said this was a computer."

"Well, yes. Believe it or not, in the future the world is completely absorbed into a computer."

"What? Like the Matrix?"

"No! Well, actually, yeah. A little bit."

"Then who are you?"

"I'm one of the many people that's trapped in the computer."

"Then why won't you tell me where the bug is at?"

"Because I physically cannot. Every that has been trapped has become part of the program, part of the code. I did say I was th computer. I cannot find the bug hidden here, only you can."

"You don't look like a computer to me. You look like a person."

"True. However, I am a special case, and I still cannot isolate the bug."

"Well, first tell me who are you?"

"I am you in the future." The woman's face blurred with a series of ones and zeros until it morphed into the old detective's face, staring right back at him.

Chapter 7 by Eloise



The detective was amazed. "Woah..." he whispered. Then he looked stern. "Change back. Now. You're creeping me out."

The future detective morphed back into the woman. "Yes, eventually, you become part of the code. But if you change the future and find the bug, you won't."

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Chapter 8 by Eve Erkens



"Can you at least tell me what my mission is?" asked the detective, impatience starts to appear on his face.

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The woman closed her eyes and froze. For a few seconds, the detective thought that something had went wrong with the program. But as he was about to speak again, she answered.

"She has been part of the code for decades, moving from past to future, future to past, back and forth in the continuum of time. You will meet her soon, during her quest to find her way out. When she entered the system, she was trying to solve a puzzle her father had left for her. She has found a way to get out into the physical world temporarily. But the future has no physical world. She comes back to your "present time" to find more clues every chance she gets."

The detective listens intently, trying to remember the time traveler's face.

"Does she have a name?" he asked.

"In this world, she is called AR-2635. But before the program, she was called Aina."

"I've got to find her," said the detective. "Will you help me?"

the end

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